

Potential Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Exemptions

SECTION X. SPS 362.0903 (14) is created to read:

SPS 362.0903 (14) BUILDINGS WITHOUT ACCESS TO MUNICIPAL WATER. (a) *Exemptions.* These are department exceptions to the automatic fire sprinkler system requirements in IBC section 903: An automatic fire sprinkler system is not required for a building that meets all of the requirements of this section.

(b) *Building types and occupancies.* These are department rules in addition to requirements in IBC section 903.2:

1. An automatic fire sprinkler system shall not be required under this section in a building that does not have access to municipal water supply at the following locations:
 - a. A Group A-2 occupancy banquet hall, restaurant, tavern, or bar.
 - b. Buildings and structures that are on a farm premises used for farming purposes and temporarily or permanently repurposed as a Group A-2 or A-3 occupancy with seasonal or limited use not to exceed 180 cumulative days each calendar year.
 - c. A Group A-3 occupancy place of religious worship or an accessory to a place of worship with limited use not to exceed 180 cumulative days each calendar year.
 - d. A single story Group R occupancy cabin, camp, or lodge building which is for seasonal use between May 1st and November 1st and where sleeping rooms have a direct exit to the exterior.
 - e. A building or space used for assembly purposes at a camp.

(c) *Alternate standards.* These are department rules in addition to the requirements in IBC section 903.2 for the building locations in par. (b): A building that meets the requirements of par. (b) shall also comply with both of the following:

1. The occupancy shall meet all of the following requirements:
 - a. The occupant load shall be displayed in accordance with IBC section 1004.3.
 - b. Smoking shall be prohibited in the building and at any location that is 50 feet or less from the building.
 - c. All open flames shall be prohibited in the building and at any location that is 50 feet or less from the building, except for those flames used for the purpose of heating food for catering service with temperatures reaching no higher than 215°F and requiring no installation as part of building construction.
 - d. A monitored automatic fire alarm system installed as required in chs. SPS 361 to 366 and in accordance with the prevailing NFPA 72 standard.
2. In addition to the requirements under subd. 1, the occupancy shall meet two or more of the following requirements:
 - a. The number and location of portable fire extinguishers shall exceed requirements in IBC section 906 for the occupancy. Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed, and maintained in accordance with IBC section 906 and NFPA 10.
 - b. The number of exits shall exceed the requirements under IBC section 1006.
 - c. The accessible means of egress shall exceed the requirements of IBC section 1009.

- d. The unsprinklered fire area shall be separated from other occupancies in the building by construction that meets IBC section 707.3.10.
- e. Another method or methods determined by the commercial building inspector and fire code official having jurisdiction as providing a level of fire and smoke protection equivalent to an automatic fire sprinkler system. The determination shall be provided by the fire code official if there is no commercial building inspector for the jurisdiction.

(d) *Application process.* This is a department rule in addition to IBC section 903.2:

1. Requests for an exemption under this section shall be made as part of the building plan approval process in s. SPS 361.30 (1). The following information shall be included with the building plan application:
 - a. The type of occupancy and conditions meeting requirements under par. (b).
 - b. Identification of the alternate standards from par. (c) provided as an equivalent level of fire and smoke protection to an automatic fire sprinkler system.
 - c. A completed position statement from both the commercial building inspector and the fire code official having jurisdiction evaluating whether the building provides an equivalent level of fire and smoke protection to installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system. If there is no commercial building inspector for the jurisdiction, the position statement shall be completed by the fire code official.
2. If the commercial building inspector and fire code official having jurisdiction determines that the exemption from automatic fire sprinkler system requirements provides an equivalent level of fire and smoke protection to installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system, the application shall be approved by the department. If there is no commercial building inspector with jurisdiction, the exemption shall be approved by the department if the fire code official having jurisdiction determines the building provides an equivalent level of fire and smoke protection to installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system.
3. If either the commercial building inspector or fire code official having jurisdiction determines that the exemption from automatic fire sprinkler requirements does not provide a level of fire and smoke protection equivalent to installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system, the exemption shall not be approved by the department.

Note: If an application for an exemption is not approved by the department under this section, an applicant may submit a petition for variance application and fee to the department, as allowed under s. SPS 303.03, to request further review and consideration by the department.

SECTION X. SPS 362.0306 is created to read:

SPS 362.0306 Cheese factories classified as F-2 occupancy. This is a department rule in addition to the examples in IBC section 306.3: Cheese factory